

20-930

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to their Excellencies and Messieurs and Mesdames the Chiefs of Mission and has the honor to inform missions of a change in responsibility for matters concerning foreign government elections and absentee voting polling stations in the United States. The Department's Office of the Chief of Protocol has transferred responsibility of this function to the Department's Office of Foreign Missions (OFM). As such, OFM shall be the Department's primary point of contact for foreign missions on this topic.

Consistent with past practice, embassies are requested to provide OFM advance notification of any scheduled election procedures and/or absentee voting events. When notifying OFM, please provide at a minimum:

- the anticipated date(s) of the proceedings;
- the associated address(es) of proposed polling stations; and,
- an explanation of the voting process.

Upon receipt of this information, OFM will inform state and local authorities accordingly.

The Department generally does not object the establishment of polling stations in the United States, provided that the preparation and activities at the polling stations are not disruptive and are conducted as quietly as possible in accordance with U.S. policies and regulations. As such, embassies are also requested to include in its notification, its assurances that the process will be conducted with due respect for the sovereignty and public order of the United States.

Additionally, embassies are requested to make appropriate arrangements with relevant property management personnel and other state and local parties who may be affected by polling activity.

Questions concerning election procedures in the United States may be addressed to OFMProperty@state.gov.

Department of State,

Washington, June 26, 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be a stylized 'C' or 'S' followed by a flourish.